



**PHIL 250: Business Ethics**  
**Cincinnati Christian University**  
**Foster School of Biblical Studies, Arts & Sciences**

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**3 Semester Credit Hours**

**Fall 2018**

**Wednesday 10 am-10:50 am**

**Course Description:**

A study of the ethical foundations for sound decision making in management with a focus on how managers incorporate ethical values into corporate governance and strategy to benefit all of society. A special emphasis will be placed on biblical ethics and its influence on managerial decisions.

NOTE: This section of the course is in hybrid format, meeting once a week in a face-to-face context with the remaining components online.

**Arts & Sciences Departmental Outcomes**

CCU's Arts & Sciences program is designed to prepare students to

1. communicate effectively in both oral and written forms in a variety of rhetorical contexts, including Standard English,
2. adeptly utilize modern research and writing tools,
3. identify decisive events and ideas in the human experience and assess their influences on modern culture and thought,
4. employ critical and creative thinking and mathematic and scientific principles for problem solving, literary and socio-cultural analysis, intercultural understanding, and research in the sciences and humanities,
5. demonstrate the integration of academic insights and experiences by constructing and employing a personal framework in which ethical decisions can be made in light of societal values and a Christian worldview.

## Course Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss ethical issues facing managers and supervisors in the modern business world.
2. Demonstrate applied learning by applying ethical theories to the case studies in this course and thus be more capable of recognizing ethical dilemmas in work settings.
3. Suggest what an ethical business dilemma is, how the dilemma came to be, and the possible outcomes for the dilemma.
4. Demonstrate the ability to take an ethical position on a controversial issue and be able to defend your position.
5. Understand and demonstrate how sound ethical decision making strengthens an organization and leads to profits.

All of the Course Learning Outcomes connect to Arts & Sciences Outcomes #3 & 4.

## Textbooks:

Hill, Alexander, *Just Business: Christian Ethics for the Marketplace* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008).

ISBN: 9780830826766

Klein, Naomi, *No Logo* (New York, NY: Picador, 2002).

ISBN: 9780312429270

## Assignments:

1. **Book Summary (Hill)** – Students will read the book, *Just Business*, and write a 5-8 page summary of the book. This is **not** an outline, but rather should take paragraph format throughout. No long quotations, no bullet points, no opinions; this is simply the student putting the book into her or his **own** words. Where citation is necessary, do so parenthetically. No introduction or conclusion necessary; start where the book starts and end where the book ends. There are case studies throughout that ask questions: do not summarize these. Just the central ideas of each chapter thoroughly explained will be sufficient. The student will be graded on accuracy of information, structure of presentation, and his or her ability to state the book's main

ideas concisely. Show me you read the book from cover to cover. **The book summary is worth 10% of the final grade.**

2. **Book Response (Klein)** – On the first day of class, students will be assigned three chapters from Naomi Klein’s ‘No Logo.’ The student is to read the assigned chapters and then write a 1-2 page paper for each chapter (total of 3-6 pages). At least half of each paper must be a summary that gives an account of the author’s main argument, and half of each paper must be a critical and practical response. Did you agree or disagree with the assessment? Why? What can an otherwise ethical business do to correct the issues presented? Be specific. **All three papers are worth 10% collectively.**
3. **Online Discussion** – Every week for the first seven weeks of class, there will be a variety of course discussions based upon materials provided within the respective modules. Students will be graded upon whether they followed the appropriate directions, how well they demonstrated their understanding of the material, and how well they responded to other students. Discussions vary on how many points each is worth, however, all the discussions for one week equal 5 points. **Each module is worth 5%, 35% collectively.**
4. **Article Reactions** – Article reactions will take place online between weeks 8 through 14. Explanation: On the first day of class the professor will (1) **give** each student one of five different topics (Environmental Protection, Consumer Protection, Labor Rights, Government/Corporate Relations, Future Studies). Whichever topic the student is given will be her or his topic for the duration of the semester. The student is then to (2) **find** an article that deals with that topic. These can be case studies, opinions, in depth analyses, or current events. The student then is to (3) **read** that article, (4) **post** the link to the appropriate Canvas forum, and (5) **write** a two paragraph response underneath the link: the first paragraph is to be a **summary** of the article, the second paragraph is to be the student’s **opinion**, supported by sound ethical reasoning. Once the student is finished, he or she will then (6) **read** two other students’ responses and (7) **write** a paragraph in response to those students (one must be in disagreement!). There should be **four** paragraphs in all, each paragraph is to be 4-6 sentences in length. **There are seven Article Reactions in all, 5% apiece, 35% collectively.**
5. **Group Debate** – On the first day of class, as students receive topics for the Article Reactions, the professor is also assigning groups of students who share the same topic. The professor will then give each group of students a particular case that falls under the category of their topic. The group will pick a side of the issue to debate and work throughout the semester on building an argument that they will present on the final day of class. These arguments are to be very well researched and presented in the most appealing way possible. The students are then to defend their argument against the professor. After the debate, students are to submit **their own** research, along with a statement on their own personal contribution to the group. Students will be graded on their preparation, research, presentation, and contribution to the group. **The Group Debate is worth 10% of the final grade.**

#### **Final Assessments:**

1. Article Reactions (7)	35%
2. Book Summary	10%
3. Book Response	10%

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|---------------------------|-----|
| 4. Online discussions (7) | 35% |
| 5. Group Debate           | 10% |

### **Academic & Disability Services:**

The Evan Bolejack Learning Center: Students in need of academic coaching or tutoring should contact the learning center at [learning.center@ccuniversity.edu](mailto:learning.center@ccuniversity.edu) to schedule an appointment. All services are free to current students.

Disability Services: Students who require academic accommodations due to a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from the Student Services Department within the first two weeks of class. The Student Services Center is located on the 200-level of the Presidents Hall. You may also contact the office by phone (513.244.8150) or email [studentlife@ccuniversity.edu](mailto:studentlife@ccuniversity.edu).

### **Assignment Schedule**

*(All Assignments Due on Wednesdays Before Class Begins)*

August

29 – No Assignments Due

September

5 – Mod 1 – General Discussions 1 & 2 Due

12 – Mod 2 – Informative Discussions 1 & 2, and Integrative Discussion Due

19 – Mode 3 – Informative Discussions 1, 2, & 3, and Integrative Discussion Due

26 – Mod 4 – Informative Discussion and Integrative Discussion Due

October

3 – Mod 5 – Informative Discussions 1 & 2, and Integrative Discussion Due

10 – Mod 6 – Informative Discussion and Integrative Discussion Due

17 – Mod 7 – Integrative Discussion Due

24 – Mod 8 – No Logo Book Response and Article Reaction 1 Due

31 – Mod 9 – Article Reaction 2 Due

November

7 – Mod 10 – Article Reaction 3 Due

14 – Article Reaction 4 Due

21 – NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

28 – Mod 11 – Article Reaction 4 Due

December

5 – Mod 12 – Article Reaction 5 Due

12 – Mod 13 – Article Reaction 6 Due

19 – Mod 14 & 15: Article Reaction, Just Business Book Summary, Group Debate Due

\*Disclaimer: The professor reserves the right to make changes to the contents of this syllabus at his or her own discretion. Extenuating circumstances might prompt the professor to make adjustments to schedules, assignments, grading, etc. The student will be given notice of any such changes.